

December 2014

# The INFORMANT

The Kansas City Missouri Police Department



## Mentoring program preps new captains

*Oh, the places they'll go!*

### Captains' Mentoring Program Assignments

#### Chief's Office

Media Unit  
Community Support Division  
Human Resources Division

#### Executive Services Bureau

Fleet Operations Unit  
Liaison to City Manager and  
Detention Unit  
Communications Unit  
Fiscal Unit

#### Investigations Bureau

KC No Violence Alliance  
Special Victims Unit  
Law Enforcement Resource Center  
Narcotics and Vice Division  
Violent Crimes Division with Murder  
Squad Call Out

#### Patrol Bureau

East, Metro, Central and one other  
Patrol Division, Watch 3  
Staff Inspection Commander  
Traffic Division  
Special Operations Division  
Construction Division

#### Administration and Professional Development and Research Bureaus

Information Technology and  
Records Units  
Regional Crime Laboratory  
Research and Development  
Division  
Training Division

Five new captains were promoted December 5, but they didn't receive a command assignment.

Rather, they were assigned everywhere. Chief Darryl Forté has instituted a new Captains' Mentoring Program that will have commander promotees experience dozens of department elements.

"They'll broaden their perspective on the overall functions of the police department," Chief Forté said. "It's something that has been needed."

He said he knows of no other law enforcement agency that has such a program. He gave the example of why it will be beneficial for the captains to experience something like the Fiscal Division.

"The financial piece is huge," he said. "It's easy for a captain to put 'recommend approval' on a request, but where's that money going to come from?"

With input from deputy chiefs, Officer Tommy Woods designed the program so the new captains would experience every bureau on the department (see the assignments at left). They will spend one to four weeks in each assignment and will be mentored by majors, directors, captains and sergeants in each element they visit. It will take them about seven months to complete the cycle. They also will receive two weeks of training in a Cap-



James Schulte, right, is one of the newly promoted captains whom Chief Forté assigned to the mentoring program.

tain's School at the Academy.

The new captain's list was released at the end of November. The first six on the list were moved into vacancies, and the next five were put into the mentoring program. They are Gideon Cody, Greg Williams, Daniel Graves, James Schulte and Lionel Colon.

Captain Schulte has spent all of his 15 years on the department in Patrol. He said the mentoring program is a great idea and will make him better prepared for his new role as a commander.

"As a captain, you're in more of a global oversight position," Captain Schulte said. "You really need to know what the capabilities and limitations are of your resources."

He said the program

will make participants more flexible, prepared and well-rounded for their careers.

"The better prepared we are, the more of an asset we can be in the future," he said. "It's better than 48 captains who are all good at only one thing."

After just a few days working with Captain Don Sight at the Fleet Operations Unit, Schulte said he's already learned a great deal about that unit's challenges and what lies ahead for them.

**Pg. 2** Saving dogs in search warrant operations

**Pg. 3** Off the Clock: Erica Harris News in Brief

**Pg. 4** Officially Speaking Upcoming Events

# Officers, expert work to save dogs in warrants

Nearly every member of the Street Crimes Unit's two tactical enforcement squads has at least one dog at home, which made one part of their job particularly difficult.

"We serve such a high number of search warrants in the inner-city, and there are so many pit bulls and other aggressive dogs," Officer William VonWolf said.

Many times, those dogs attack the officers when they're serving search warrants, and until recently, the officers had no other choice but to shoot them in order to protect themselves.

"I have a dog," VonWolf said. "We're all pet owners. When we have to shoot a dog, it's a big deal to all of us. It sucks. It's one of the worst parts of the job."

Captain Charles "Chip" Huth – a long-time member of the S.C.U. Tactical Squad until his recent promotion – said a more community-centric approach was needed.

"We create or destroy community relationships with every contact we make as officers," Huth said. "So we asked ourselves, 'If someone could come into my home and arrest me without killing my pet, would I want them to?' Everybody said, 'Yes.'"

So he and Von Wolf recruited an animal behavior expert and adopted new practices in their squads to reduce lethal dog shootings. The officers' education on dog behavior along with using Tasers instead of guns has resulted in an 80 percent reduction in dog shootings during warrant service operations over a one-year period.

The officers brought in Anthony Barnett, a certified dog trainer from Lawrence, Kan., who also is the founder and president of Game Dog Guardian, an animal rescue group that works mostly with pit bulls and aims to impact the human behavior that creates dangerous animals. Captain Huth and Officer VonWolf interviewed Barnett to ensure he had the right attitude for working with officers.



**Top: Dog expert Anthony Barnett, center, went along on dozens of search warrant operations with Officer William VonWolf, left, and Captain Chip Huth, right, to help them reduce the number of dogs against which the Street Crimes Unit Tactical Squads use lethal force.**

**Bottom: DeeDee is one of more than 30 dogs Barnett helped rescue from a dog-fighting operation uncovered during a KCPD search warrant. At left is what she looked like when seized, and at right is DeeDee today.**

*Photos Courtesy Anthony Barnett*



ers.

"It was really important that I didn't come in as a save-'em-all crazy dog guy," Barnett said. "It was very important for me to understand these are humans who are put in difficult positions and have to make difficult decisions."

Barnett embedded with the tactical teams on dozens of occasions over the course of nearly two years to get their perspective. He also provided them with training to better interpret whether a dog is just scared or if it's going to attack. He said it was refreshing to see officers who are critical of their own prac-

tices and want to improve themselves. He saw the situations the officers had to face, and then debriefed with them afterward to talk about how they handled their interactions with dogs.

All of this analysis has led to the S.C.U. Tactical Enforcement Squads acquiring a new kind of Taser – the X2 – that's better suited for dogs. It can issue multiple jolts and provides better laser sights that assist officers in striking a dog's torso. At this point, no other department element has them. VonWolf said this Taser has the exact same effect on dogs that it does on humans: locking up their muscles. None of the dogs the tactical squads have Tasered have suffered any lasting effects. The Taser gives the officers the opportunity to secure the dog with a stick (a long stick with a looped rope at the end) and shut it into a room or turn it over to Animal Control.

The officers usually get intelligence from undercover officers about whether there are dogs in the home where they're going to serve a warrant. Captain Huth estimates the tactical officers must confront an aggressive dog in about a third of their warrant operations.

Barnett has helped out in other ways, too: identifying and rescuing dogs from fighting operations. He was

there when officers served a warrant on one house with more than 30 pit bulls that were being trained and used for fighting. He was able to rescue those dogs through his organization. He's also taught officers ways to identify signs of dog fighting.

VonWolf, Huth and Barnett are now creating curriculum that can be taught to all officers on interpreting dog behavior. As far as they know, their work to reduce dog shootings by police is the first of its kind.



# Off the Clock: Get Your Sweet Tooth On!

Starting out baking cupcakes just for the fun of it has evolved into a pretty sweet deal for Records Unit Assistant Supervisor Erica Harris. She is the proud owner of Cupcakin Bakery, 2311 East 12th Street, located one-half block east of Gates Barbeque. The Grand Opening was November of last year.

Harris said, "I wanted to be closer to downtown, and I liked the storefront look of it."

She chose the bakery's name from a term she heard years ago to describe couples – "cupcakin." She said it rang a bell, she liked it, and it stuck.

Harris loves baking, perfecting her craft by taking a Wilton cooking class and experimenting with many on-line videos. She stuck with the recipes she really liked, baking for the past two and a half years. Fortunately, her co-workers were willing to be guinea pigs and taste testers for her creations.

At department fund-raising events, Harris would bring cupcakes to sell. They were a big hit and soon her co-workers were placing orders for their own functions. After baking cupcakes for her 8-year-old daughter Taylor's birthday, one of the mothers requested some cupcakes and offered to pay for them. This shocked Harris. She never dreamed of selling them. But an officer also told her she should sell them, giving her the extra push.

With so many people placing orders, Harris said, "It got so

out of control, I had to find a place for it."

Harris works the Dogwatch shift in the Records Unit and runs the shop on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from noon-5 p.m. When winter is over and the weather warms up, she may add ice cream to the menu and more days to the schedule. She bakes an occasional birthday cake, but concentrates on the twelve varieties of cupcakes, from chocolate, lemon and pineapple to apple spice cake and French toast, at \$2.50 apiece.

There's a private room onsite that can accommodate themed birthday parties for up to 15 children. Smaller kids can reenact a tea party, dressing up in princess dresses and decorat-

ing cakes and cookies while sipping from real tea cups. A Cake Boss theme is offered for older kids, complete with aprons and chef hats, to decorate their own personal birthday cakes. Harris' 24-year-old daughter Ashley helps at the parties, as well as daughter Aleysha, when she's home from college.

Harris plans on Valentine's Day being busy. To date, though, her largest order was 350 cupcakes for a wedding.

Busy or not, she enjoys it when neighborhood folks and co-workers pop in. Social media, fliers,

word of mouth and a recent article in the Kansas City Star have helped gain Cupcakin some exposure.

When asked if she has any plans to retire from KCPD any time soon, she quickly replied, "No! I like it here."



**When she's not working as an assistant supervisor in the Records Unit, Erica Harris sells her scrumptious baked goods at Cupcakin at 2311 E. 12th St.**



## News in Brief

Kansas City Police helped spread plenty of cheer during the holiday season. At left, Officer Richard Salzman and Master Police Officer Oliver Wolz, East Patrol Division, helped deliver presents for the Guadalupe Center Adopt-A-Family program. Officers also helped hand out and deliver Christmas dinners and gifts at St. Therese Little Flower Church in Metro Patrol Division, adopted families in need of assistance throughout Kansas City and much more.

## Upcoming Events

January 3  
Women's Personal Safety  
Course - Academy

January 29  
Board of Police  
Commissioners Meeting -  
Police Headquarters  
Community Room

January 31  
Polar Plunge for Special  
Olympics Missouri -  
Longview Lake

The mission of the  
Kansas City Missouri  
Police Department  
is to protect  
and serve with  
professionalism, honor  
and integrity.

## Officially Speaking

### Promotions

#### *To Supervisor*

Robert Fields  
Ted Smith  
Lea Woodward

#### *To Sergeant*

Kip Ackerson  
Manuel Anchondo  
Jason Cote  
Charissa Crawford  
Robert DeYaeghere  
Eric Drunert  
Marvin Forbes  
Shelly Gaddis  
Robert Gibbs  
Joshua Heinen  
Ryan Hoerath  
Caleb Lenz  
Samuel Spencer  
Todd Templeton  
Luther Young

#### *To Captain*

Gideon Cody  
Lionel Colon  
Brad Deichler  
Timothy Gaughan  
Daniel Graves  
Stacey Graves  
Charles Huth  
David Jackson  
Justin Kobolt  
Joel Lovelady  
James Schulte  
Gregory Williams

#### *To Director*

Michael Grigsby

#### *To Major*

Donna Greenwell  
Joseph McHale  
John Mueller

### 25-Year Ring

Administrative Asst.  
Karen Petree

### Retirements

Detective Karen Brown  
Detective Paul Hartke,  
Jr.  
Detective Marcus  
Regan

### Obituaries

Retired Officer James  
Gibeson

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